

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of booting a computer, comprising the steps of:

emulating a floppy drive containing a floppy disk and communicatively coupled to the computer in a token via a USB-compliant interface; and
booting the computer using the token.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises the steps of:

reading a password from the token;
unlocking a hard drive using the password;
reading a the boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the hard drive; and
executing said boot-up sequence.

Claim 3 (original). The method of claim 2, wherein the password is an ATA-3 password.

Claim 4 (original). The method of claim 2, wherein the password is stored as a file in the emulated floppy drive.

Claim 5 (original). The method of claim 2, wherein the password is stored in a secure memory of the token.

Claim 6 (original). The method of claim 2, wherein the step of reading the password from the token comprises the steps of:

prompting the user for a identifier;

authenticating a user-provided identifier; and

reading the password only if the user-provided identifier is authenticated;

Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 6, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a user password.

Claim 8 (original). The method of claim 6, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a biometric data.

Claim 9 (original). The method of claim 8, wherein the biometric data comprises a fingerprint.

Claim 10 (original). The method of claim 2, wherein the computer is controlled by an operating system after the computer is booted and the method further comprises the steps of:

automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted; and

authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of disabling the emulation of the floppy drive.

Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises the steps of:

reading a boot up sequence from the token; and
performing the boot up sequence.

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of: automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted.

Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

Claim 15 (currently amended). An apparatus for booting a computer, comprising:

means for emulating a floppy drive containing a floppy disk and communicatively coupled to the computer in a token via a USB-compliant interface; and
means for booting the computer using the token.

Claim 16 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, wherein means for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

means for reading a password from the token;
means for unlocking a hard drive using the password;

means for reading a boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the hard drive;
and
means for executing said boot-up sequence.

Claim 17 (original). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the password is an ATA-3 password.

Claim 18 (original). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the password is stored as a file in the emulated floppy drive.

Claim 19 (original). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the password is stored in a secure memory of the token.

Claim 20 (original). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for reading the password from the token comprises:

means for prompting the user for a identifier;
means for authenticating a user-provided identifier; and
means for reading the password only if the user-provided identifier is authenticated;

Claim 21 (original). The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a user password.

Claim 22 (original). The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a biometric data.

Claim 23 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the biometric data comprises a fingerprint.

Claim 24 (original). The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the computer is controlled by an operating system after the computer is booted and the apparatus further comprises:

means for automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted;
and

means for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

Claim 25 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for disabling the emulation of the floppy drive.

Claim 26 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the means for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

means for reading a boot up sequence from the token; and

means for performing the boot up sequence.

Claim 27 (original). The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising: means for automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted.

Claim 28 (original). The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising: means for authenticating the

user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

Claim 29 (currently amended). A token, comprising:

- an input/output (I/O) interface communicatively coupleable to a computer;
- a processor, communicatively coupled to the I/O interface; and
- a memory, communicatively coupled to the processor, the memory for storing a plurality of processor instructions to emulate a floppy drive containing a floppy disk and communicatively coupled to the computer, and for booting the computer using the token.

Claim 30 (original). The apparatus of claim 29, wherein processor commands for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

- at least one processor command for reading a password from the token;
- at least one processor command for unlocking a hard drive using the password;
- at least one processor command for reading a boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the hard drive; and
- at least one processor command for executing said boot-up sequence.

Claim 31 (original). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the password is an ATA-3 password.

Claim 32 (original). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the password is stored as a file in the emulated floppy drive.

Claim 33 (original). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the password is stored in a secure memory of the token.

Claim 34 (original). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the at least one processor command for reading the password from the token comprises:

- at least one processor command for prompting the user for a identifier;
- at least one processor command for authenticating a user-provided identifier; and
- at least one processor command for reading the password only if the user-provided identifier is authenticated;

Claim 35 (original). The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a user password.

Claim 36 (original). The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a biometric data.

Claim 37 (original). The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the biometric data comprises a fingerprint.

Claim 38 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the computer is controlled by an operating system after the computer is booted and wherein the plurality of processor ~~comamands~~ commands comprises:

at least one processor command for automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted; and

at least one processor command for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

Claim 39 (original). The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising means for disabling the emulation of the floppy drive.

Claim 40 (original). The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor commands for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

at least one processor command for reading a boot up sequence from the token; and

at least one processor command for performing the boot up sequence.

Claim 41 (original). The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the emulation of the floppy drive is automatically ceased after the computer is booted.

Claim 42 (original). The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

at least one processor command for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted using the token.

Claim 43 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises the steps of: reading a password from the token; unlocking a hard drive

by sending the password to the hard drive; reading the boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the hard drive; and executing said boot-up sequence.